

What is the Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety?

The citizen's committee was created by state law in 2000 to "advise the state agencies and other appropriate federal and local government agencies and officials on matters relating to hazardous liquid and gas pipeline safety, routing, construction, operation and maintenance." (RCW 81.88.140).

In 2002, Congress referenced the importance of such state advisory committees by requiring that the federal Secretary of Transportation respond in writing within 90 days to any pipeline safety recommendations made by a state pipeline safety advisory committee. (HR 3609, Section 24)

The committee has nine voting members representing the public, including local government and elected officials. Four non-voting members represent owners and operators of hazardous liquid and gas pipelines. The members are appointed by the Governor and serve three-year staggered terms. The director of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) pipeline safety program and members of staff assist the committee.

Goals & Activities

The committee's primary goal is to maintain and improve the safety of pipelines in Washington State. In pursuing this goal, the committee expects to:

- Raise understanding and awareness of pipelines and pipeline safety;
- Review, comment and make recommendations on proposed local, state and federal pipeline laws and regulations;
- Give counsel and advice to local governments, the state pipeline safety program with the UTC, the state spill prevention and response program with Department of Ecology (DOE), and the federal pipeline safety program in the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

In 2011, the committee met six times, four times in Olympia and twice by conference call over the year. Presentations and discussions included:

- The national Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance report and Washington's "Planning near Pipelines" initiative involving a Technical Assistance Grant.
- The 2011 Dig Law (HB 1634) amendments. The Committee wrote a letter in support of the bill but also expressed specific concerns broadening exemptions for agricultural tilling, ditch maintenance and installation of new road signs.
- Problematic pipes and the status of cast iron and bare steel pipelines in Washington.
- Regular updates from the UTC Pipeline Safety program and the Department of Ecology Spill prevention and response program.
- Federal proposals to reauthorize the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).
- PHMSA rulemakings.
- Public awareness requirements and compliance by pipeline programs.
- Robotic in-line inspection technologies and capabilities.
- Puget Sound Energy's Pipeline Integrity Program tariff.
- Federal rulemaking on natural gas transmission pipelines.

2011 Stakeholder Report

Members

In 2011, the committee lost and gained members as terms expired and new members were appointed.

As of December 31, 2011, members were:

Voting members:

Tim Sweeney, chair, Olympia	Public
David Taylor, vice-chair, Ridgefield	Cities Representative
Carl Weimer, Bellingham	Washington State Association of Counties
Bill Rickard, Spokane	Public
Arthur Coulombe, Walla Walla	Public
Ron Schmitt, Tacoma	Public
Andrew Martonick, Walla Walla	Public
Bob Beaumier, Spokane	Public
Terill Briere, Renton	Public

Non-voting members:

Ruth Mabrey, Battle Ground	Northwest Pipeline Corporation (WGP)
Rosalie Ann Lopez, Seattle	BP/Olympic Pipe Line
Cory Herrick, Tacoma	McChord Pipeline
Jody Morehouse, Spokane	Avista Utilities

Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
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